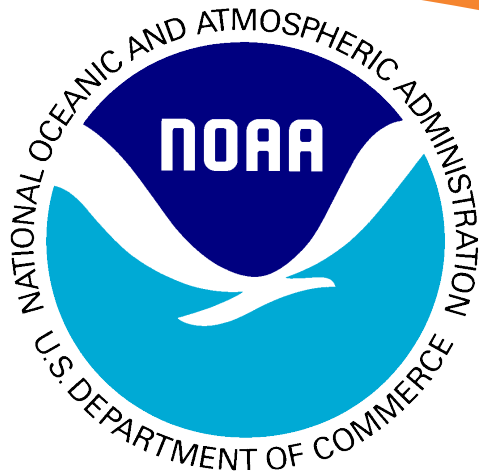


NOAA

Flagstaff NWS

Lightning Safety

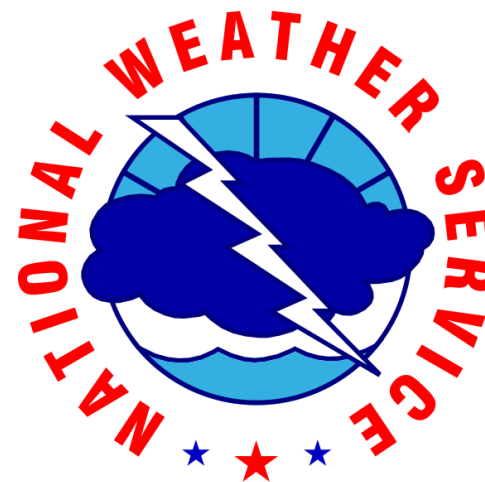


When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!



NOAA's National Weather Service
Flagstaff Weather Forecast Office
P.O. Box 16057
Bellemont, AZ 86015-6057

(928) 556-9161



Provided by the National Weather
Service, Flagstaff, AZ

Your official local source for accurate
and timely weather warnings and
forecasts.

• NOAA Weather Radio:

Receivers available at many electronics
stores.

Flagstaff	162.400 MHz
Show Low	162.400 MHz
Grand Canyon	162.475 MHz
Window Rock	162.550 MHz
Prescott	162.525 MHz
White Mountains	162.525 MHz
Payson	162.425 MHz

- Recorded Weather Forecast for Flagstaff
and the Grand Canyon: (928) 774-3301

• Links for Lightning and Severe Weather Information:

www.ready.gov/
www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/
thunder.msfc.nasa.gov/
noaawatch.gov/themes/severe.php
weather.gov/flagstaff

Forecasts, warnings, & weather
information for northern Arizona
available on the web at:

weather.gov/flagstaff

Lightning Facts

- In the United States, lightning kills 55 people each year (2 in Arizona) and injures another 400.
- Men account for more than 80% of lightning fatalities.



- Most lightning deaths occur during the summer in the afternoon and evening.
- Most victims get struck outdoors in an open field or near a tree.
- There is enough energy in one lightning flash to power a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months.
- A lightning flash can heat the air to 50,000°F which is about 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun.
- Thunder is created by the rapid expansion of heated air surrounding the lightning bolt.

Lightning Myths

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: Lightning strikes more frequently at tall, isolated objects such as trees, towers, or utility poles. The Empire State building in New York City is struck by lightning about one 100 times per year.

Myth: If you can't feel rain, then you're safe.

Fact: Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from rainfall. If you can hear thunder, you're close enough to get struck. **Remember: When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**



Myth: Lightning victims are electrified.

Fact: Lightning victims do not carry a charge, are safe to assist, and may require life-saving CPR or rescue breathing.

Myth: Rubber tires protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: A few inches of rubber will not protect you from lightning. Only the metal surrounding hard-topped automobiles offers good protection from lightning by conducting electricity through the exterior of the vehicle.

Lightning Safety Tips

General Lightning Safety

- Check the weather forecast. If there is a chance of thunderstorms, adjust outdoor activities accordingly.
- The safest place to be during a thunderstorm is inside a substantial building with electrical wiring and plumbing.
- When inside, avoid contact with conductive surfaces that are exposed to the outside such as metal door or window frames, electrical wiring, and plumbing.
- Do not take a shower or bath, wash dishes, or use a corded telephone during a thunderstorm.
- Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before going back outside.

Camping and Hiking

- Know the weather patterns of the area. In the mountains, thunderstorms typically form in the late morning through afternoon, so plan on being off the mountain well before noon.
- Absolutely avoid being on top of a mountain or ridge during a thunderstorm.
- A tent offers no protection from lightning.

On the Water

- If thunderstorms are forecast, don't go on the water.
- If you are on the water and skies are threatening, get back to land and find a safe building or vehicle.
- If you cannot get off the water then stay inside the cabin. If there is no cabin, get as low as possible. Stay off the radio unless it is an emergency.